THE NEED
IN SOUTH CAROLINA:

42%
of people live in a childcare desert, where there are more than three times as many children as licensed child care slots

53%
of children ages 3 and 4 are not enrolled in nursery school or preschool

IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY:

4,816
children under age 5

70.8%
of young children live in poverty or low-income households

69%
of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

OUR MISSION
Getting Children Ready For School

OUR APPROACH
High quality programs and services for children and families
Intensive training, resources and support for childcare providers
Strategic partnerships and community education

OUR IMPACT
1917
number of children and adults served by ABC County First Steps in 2018-2019

JOIN US
We rely on a community of partners, donors, and volunteers – people like you – who believe in a brighter future for children and families in our community.
OUR STORY

Orangeburg County First Steps continues to strive for excellence in serving children and families. It is our desire and goal to work collaboratively with the entire community to provide early education so that every child is healthy, safe and ready to enter kindergarten at age five. The board of directors and staff of Orangeburg County First Steps continue to build momentum by diversifying services necessary to see a greater impact.

Moving forward, the agency is looking forward to building a close knit early childhood community for continued implementation of quality services in Orangeburg County.

OUR GOALS

Our partnership’s work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Orangeburg County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina’s description of school readiness:

• Orangeburg County First Steps seeks to increase services for early identification of physical, emotional and educational disabilities.

• Orangeburg County First Steps seeks to improve the quality of the environment and educational services provided by the child development centers enrolled in the Quality Counts Program.

• Orangeburg County First Steps seeks to improve quality professional development opportunities in order to increase the number of qualified staff persons who work with children ages 0-5 in Orangeburg County.

• Orangeburg County First Steps seeks to serve as a community portal for connecting families of preschool children to services designed to strengthen families and promote optimal child development.

It has truly been a privilege to serve with a group of people who put children first in every decision that is made.  
Jacqueline Jamison, Board Member
As the local affiliate of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, we provide free, high-quality books to children from birth until age five, no matter their family’s income.

Children enrolled in our Imagination Library program receive one book per month by mail. Each title is selected by a panel of early childhood literacy experts, who are responsible for choosing books that meet the age-specific developmental needs of young children.

**IMAGINATION LIBRARY BY THE NUMBERS**
**2018-2019**

102 children served
840 books distributed

Because Orangeburg County First Steps secures the funds to cover the cost of books and shipping fees, books are free to children in Orangeburg County.

**Join us by sponsoring a child for just $30 a year.**
COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN

Developed by South Carolina First Steps – and identified as a promising state practice by the National Governor’s Association in 2005 – Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a home visitation program pairing the families of rising kindergartners with their future teachers during the summer before school entry. Teachers complete six visits with each family, establishing strong connections during the summer that facilitate classroom learning throughout the year.

CTK BY THE NUMBERS
2018-2019

4 kindergarten teachers trained as home visitors
41 children served
242 total home and school visits
Early learning is the best gift I can give my child to change his world.
C. Carr, Parent
High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce. Our training programs are certified through the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and include topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Our 2018-2019 trainings included:

**TRAINING TOPICS**

- Supporting A Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum
- The Power of the Portfolios in Supporting the Early Learning Curriculum Pt. 1&2
- Building Social Skills With Young Learners Pt. 1&2
- Strategic Planning: A Tool for Program Administrators Pt. 1&2
- Essential Elements of an Anti-Bias Teacher Pt. 1&2

**TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019**

- Total training attendance: 168
- Child care teachers and directors served: 168
- Number of training sessions offered: 9

"Training provided by Orangeburg County First Steps has taught me how to implement innovative strategies in my early childhood classroom."

K. Parker
Reading Rocks is a summer home visitation program created and implemented by Orangeburg County First Steps. The program consists of 5 home visits and 1 early exposure school tour for children ages 3-4 years old. Reading Rocks is designed to provide exposure of early literacy concepts to 3-4 year olds by increasing interactive learning in the home environment, learning through technology, participation in Dolly Parton Imagination Library, and literacy night hosted by Orangeburg County First Steps. Age-appropriate lesson plans integrating the Early Learning Standards is the foundation of the Reading Rocks Program. The duration for each visit is no more than 60 minutes and provides the parents with hands on experience with how they can help their child get ready for school as they are required to be actively involved in each visit. The most unique feature of this program is the use of tablets to administer lessons to program participants.

**READING ROCKS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019**

10 families served

60 Total home and school visits

**ORANGEBURG COUNTY FIRST STEPS**
Access to quality child care is essential for children while away from their primary caregivers. Yet, of those families income-eligible for child care assistance in South Carolina, only a small fraction receive it due to lack of funds. In the absence of nurturing and consistently available family, friends or neighbors, parents are faced with few - or no – affordable care options.

Orangeburg County First Steps offers scholarships to families enrolled in programs offered by the agency, as well as income-eligible children whose parents work or attend school on a full time basis.

**SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS**

2018-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>number of children served</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>number of providers served</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>number of developmental screenings provided</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

100% of the money paid to child care providers goes back into our local economy to benefit the citizens of Orangeburg County.
Early Steps to School Success is a home visitation program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, save and ready to succeed.

Services Include: Personal visits from a parent educator twice monthly, screenings and assessments, monthly group meetings and connections to outside resources.

Early Steps to School Success
2018-2019

41 families served
681 total home visits
Through community partnerships, Orangeburg County First Steps seeks to provide additional training opportunities to professionals who seek to increase their knowledge and practices in successfully preparing children for school.

**Director's Network for Education Success by the Numbers 2018-2019**

- **59** total number of training participants
- **3** number of training sessions offered
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Addressing the needs of young children is a shared endeavor. In addition to providing services to families and support for child care providers, Orangeburg County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Orangeburg County begin school ready to succeed. We serve as a:

LOCAL PORTAL
connecting preschool children and their families to services

CONVENER
of community stakeholders to develop an effective and comprehensive early childhood system

CHAMPION
of the importance of school readiness to our children's future

OUR PARTNERSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS
2018-2019

189 Total Served
35 Providers Served
Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Orangeburg County First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

**FUNDING SUPPORT**

Save the Children $41,480.00  
United Way of the Midlands $10,000.00  
Orangeburg Consolidated School District 5 $2,200.00  
Center for Childcare Career Development $2,000.00  
Orangeburg Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. $500.00

**IN-KIND SUPPORT**

Orangeburg Consolidated School Districts 4 and 5  
South Carolina Department of Social Services  
Kaplan Early Learning Company  
Williams Chapel A.M.E. Church

**JOIN US**

For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at [www.orangeburgfirststeps.org](http://www.orangeburgfirststeps.org)
## Financial Highlights

### Our Investment in Quality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>State Funding</th>
<th>Federal Funding</th>
<th>Private Funding</th>
<th>In-Kind Contributions</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Steps to School Success</td>
<td>$64,520</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$36,813</td>
<td>$39,856</td>
<td>$141,189</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Care Quality Enhancement</td>
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<td>Child Care Training</td>
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<td>Imagination Library</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$519</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<td>Countdown to Kindergarten &amp; Reading Rocks</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$9,103</td>
<td>$76</td>
<td>$16,121</td>
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<td>Scholarship Initiative</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
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<td>Partnerships &amp; Community Education</td>
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<td>$1,095</td>
<td>$6,034</td>
<td>$137</td>
<td>$44,261</td>
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<td>Administrative Support</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$137</td>
<td>$38,404</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$319,139</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,095</strong></td>
<td><strong>$55,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$47,111</strong></td>
<td><strong>$422,345</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Since inception, Orangeburg County First Steps has leveraged $1,756,627.44 from sources outside of state government.

### Summary of Expenditures by Strategy

- **Evidence-based**
- **Evidence-informed**

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**Note:** The percentages represent the breakdown of funding sources.
LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors

Marie Artis
Tyneshia Bryant
Gwendolyn Breeland
Kimberlei Davis, Vice-Chair
Brian Gotses
Matthew Henderson
Bertie Howard
Jacqueline Jamison
Dr. Audrey McCrary Quarles, Committee Chair
Tonya Wells, Committee Chair/Secretary
Antron Williams
Luvenia Williams
Dr. Reginald Williams, Chairman

STAFF

LaMyra Sanders, Executive Director
Kathy Jenkins, Book Keeper/Program Analyst
Destiny Johnson, Community Ambassador/Administrative Assistant
Tuisha Glover, Parent Educator
Yvette Perryman-Brown, Parent Educator
Dr. Anthony Broughton, Technical Assistant/Trainer

CONTACT US

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